

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 OIC-02

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-01

CEA-01 INT-05 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /115 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ALL OECD CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT:UNCTAD MEETINGS ON COMMODITIES:COPPER

REF: GENEVA 6314

1. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO PIERRE CH.A. LEGOUX,
ENGINEER GENERAL OF MINES, FROM ASHLEY C HEWITT JR, CHIEF
OF THE DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL AND STRATEGIC MATERIALS OF
THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS, WHO ACTED
AS CHIEF OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE MARCH COPPER
CONSULTATION AT GENEVA, AND WHO WILL HEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION

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TO THE SEPTEMBER COPPER MEETING THERE. THE EMBASSY SHOULD

DELIVER THE LETTER TO LEGOUX AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY
INITIAL REACTIONS HE MAY HAVE WOULD BE OF INTEREST.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. LEGOUX: THANKYOU FOR YOUR LETTER
OF JULY 24, 1976 CONCERNING YOUR VISIT TO GENEVA AND YOUR
CONVERSATIONS WITH COREA AND CHIDZERO ABOUTTHE SEPTEMBER
COPPER MEETING. WE HAVE ALSO GOTTEN A REPORT ON YOUR VISIT
FROM OUR MISSION AT GENEVA, AND A COPY OF THE AGENDA FROM
THE MEETING WHICH UNCTAD STAFF PROPOSES TO FOLLOW. I AM
ASKING OUR EMBASSY AT PARIS TO SUPPLY YOU WITH A COPY OF
THE AGENDA IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE NOT SEEN IT YET.

WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT UNCTAD WILL USE ITS AUTHORITY
UNDER THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION TO STRUCTURE THE SEPTEMBER
MEETING ON COPPER IN ORDER TO YIELD AN OUTCOME TILTED TOWARD
PRODUCERS AND UNCTAD'S OWN POLICY GOALS. WE ARE ALSO
CONCERNED THAT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MAY BE ATTENDED BY
A NUMBER OF UNCTAD MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT ATTEND
THE MARCH MEETING, AND WHICH HAVE NO SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST
IN COPPER EITHER AS PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS. WE HAVE
EXPRESSED THAT CONCERN TO THE UNCTAD STAFF THROUGH OUR
MISSION AT GENEVA. HOWEVER, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT THERE
ARE NO COMPELLING GROUNDS IN PRACTICE OR PRECEDENT FOR
EXCLUDING ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH DECLARES ITSELF TO HAVE AN
INTEREST IN COPPER AND SEEKS TO ATTEND THE MEETING.
GIVEN THE PROBABLE APPROACH OF UNCTAD TO THE SEPTEMBER
MEETING, MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONSUM-
ERS ACHIEVE A FIRM, AGREED POSITION ON THE MAJOR ISSUES -
FOR EXAMPLE THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING TO THE
WORK PROGRAM LAID OUT BY THE MARCH CONSULTATION, AND THE
PROPOSAL FOR A SEPERATE PRODUCER/CONSUMER ORGANIZATION FOR
COPPER- PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE UNCTAD COPPER MEETING
AT GENEVA. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT A PREPARATORY
MEETING OF CONSUMERS BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 20-24. PERHAPS THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS OF
THAT WEEK WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. (AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS A
MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES OF THE OECD
ON SEPTEMBER 20-21.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT YOU ARE THE LOGICAL
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PERSON TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A PREPARATORY MEETING ON
COPPER, AND THAT PARIS IS THE MOST CONVENIENT LOCATION FOR
ALL PARTIES. IT ALSO PROVIDES READY ACCESS TO CIPEC SHOULD
PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRODUCERS BE DESIRABLE. YOU MAY
FEEL THAT YOUR POSITION IS UNCERTAIN BECAUSE UNCTAD HAS
CHOSEN TO CONVENE AN ENTIRELY NEW MEETING RATHER THAN
A CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING OF WHICH YOU WERE CHAIRMAN.
HOWEVER, YOU WERE ELECTED BY CONSUMERS AS THEIR REPRESENT-

ACTIVE PRIOR TO BEING CHOSEN AS CHAIRMAN BY THE MARCH CONSULTATION AS A WHOLE, AND MY GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST, WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU CONTINUE IN THAT ROLE.

WE HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL APPROVE THIS SUGGESTION FOR A PREPARATORY MEETING OF CONSUMERS PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER COPPER MEETING AT GENEVA, AND THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY TO CONVENE SUCH A MEETING. IF WE CAN BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL UPON US. SINCERELY YOURS , ASHLEY C. HEWITT JR., CHIEF INDUSTRIAL AND STRATEGIC MATERIALS, BUREAU OF

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE LEGOUX WITH THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

4. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW UPON THE ABOVE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS TO THE SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN THE LETTER FOR PREPARATORY MEETING OF CONSUMERS PRIOR TO THE COPPER MEETING CONVENED BY UNCTAD FOR SEPTEMBER 27 IN GENEVA. ROBINSON

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